

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, October 23. 1707.

WELL, Gentlemen, tho' you have endeavour'd to talk me into Jails, and Messengers Hands, and I know not what, before my Time—I shall not interrupt my Discourse for the Noise and Clamour of the Street—Let me alone, pray, as to Offences; I'll either submit and ask Pardon where I am wrong, or justify and defend my self where I am right—Let that rest for the present.

But now I doubt not, I shall be called a thousand Scury Fellows upon this *Review*—Arrogant Scribler, says the furious *High Flyer*, this Fellow must be hang'd a little—That he should pretend to talk to Parliaments, and tell his Betters, what he ought in good Manners to suppose, they know as well as himself, he will never leave till he brings himself into one Broil or another.

Well, Gentlemen, as to that you see he ventures, and three things satisfy him in it. *First*, That he will speak nothing, as near as he can, but Truth. *Secondly*, That it shall be needful and useful Truth. And *Thirdly*, That he has no body to answer to but a Parliament, a Free, a Lawful, and a *British* Parliament, a Parliament where every one may appeal, and where all Manner of Injuries will have Justice and Redress.

Perhaps I may say a little too much, perhaps not a little, as some think I have done already in another Case, of which hereafter: But be that as it will, I am sure, here I shall be used fairly, and upon all reasonable Complaints shall have Redress, and therefore I go on without any Concern.

This is the second Time I have address'd this Paper to this August Assembly, and if I have

have the same Success now, as I had the last Session, I will be fully satisfy'd, I am not so full of my Advices and Directions, perhaps as some may expect me to be; I know, while I am speaking to—But my Addressees will chiefly be by Way of Information, and every English Subject has a Right to do that.

The Parliament is now assembling, the Nobility and Gentry are collecting from all Parts of Britain to be at the first Opening of this great Wonder, a new, never-expected, infinitely opposed Creature, a *British Parliament*, a Thing the World never saw before, a Thing all our Enemies struggled to prevent, ~~and~~ and some of our Friends too, who, I doubt not, will live to blush at their own Weakness.

Nor is the Wonder of this Parliament to be express'd in this Paper; an Age must be employ'd in the long Panegyrick, and 'tis their Actions must praise them in Ages to come; the mighty Things we have promised in their Names, they must make Good, and 'tis they must perform that strange Work of opening the Eyes of those that were born blind, I mean, of such as were born blind to their own Interest, and to the Interest of their Country—Unbelievers in *Israel*, that can be convinc'd only by Consequences, and not by them neither.—'Tis this great Assembly, that must open the Eyes of those that won't see, and shine into the Minds of those that oppose Demonstrations. 'Tis, I confess, a hard Work, and such a Trial of Skill, as never was in this Part of the World before; what may have been up in the Moon, or in the Regions that border thereabout, I cannot tell; but here it is a Thing perfectly miraculous, and yet it must be done, the Wonder must be wrought, and I doubt not, it will be wrought; and that by this very Parliament, in spite of all the Power of Men, Parties of Men and Societies now leagu'd to oppose it.

Nor is it the Parliament alone; We have a Convocation without Doors, the Season and the Circumstance collect People from all Corners to this Assembly; we have a House of Commons in the Court of Requests, a Parliament in the Taverns, Coffee-Houses, and Clubs of the Town.

These contribute not a little to the well or ill Success of the Affair before us; for it is here our Intrigues are carry'd on, and new Parties are now forming to bring into Question the Affairs of the State, and the Mea of the State also.

Nor can this be a Novelty to you, that new Parties are forming; the Discourse has been too long, broach'd, too common, too publick to be concealed, that there are infinite Caballing, Party-making, and Siding, in order to do some mighty Nothing this Parliament.

And first we must fall out, whether this be a new Parliament, or an old? Whether they must choose a new Speaker, and begin as a new House, or no?—And mighty Party-Struggles there are on this Point already—But pray, Gentlemen, be patient, the House will determine it—If they come to Meet, they must be constituted by the old Speaker, and then let the House determine the next thing themselves; but we are always in Haste, we must fix all those things for them, before they meet—But since it must be done, I think, the best Method, that can be taken, is to let them do it their own Way.

But I foresee the Gentlemen, who are for this being a new Parliament, will be under some Disappointment, as to the Continuance of this House, other three Years without a new Election; the 22d Article of the Union, saying, *That such Parliaments may continue for such Time only, as the present Parliament of England might have continued, if the Union of the two Kingdoms had not been made.*

Now there are sundry People for a new Election, and others for the Continuance of the present Parliament upon a different Principle—Some would have a new Election, because, as they say, the last House was chosen when the Nation was in a Hurry, when the Tackling had as it were: stigmatiz'd Men, and the Humour of the Nation run strong against the one Action; but now they think, the Case stands upon their Hands, High-flying and Party-Frenzy has, they say, gain'd upon the Nation, and the Friends to moderate Principles are very much sunk in their Interest; and therefore could they come to a new Parliament, they think, they could

could mend the House, as they call it, their Way, that is, change for the worse; choose some *Higb-Flyers*, some of the old Race of *Barbarians*, call'd *Tackers*, a small Quantity of whom are mightily wanted at this Time, to play over the old Game again, and if possible, to fly in the Face of the Union of the two Kingdoms.

Now, Gentlemen, all this is a Delusion too, and these Gentlemen perhaps would find themselves as much mistaken, if there was a new Election, and that the Ground they thought they got in the last Session, would not upon a Trial stand them in so much stead, as they fancy'd it would.

Mean Time the present Debate lies among, as without Doors, how far this Notion of a *NEW Parliament* shall be construed to extend; and this in my Opinion will be the first, and an early Struggle; I shall not anticipate the Debate, but this I shall say to all *Britain's* Friends, as I once said in a Case as weighty, there's no Danger, if you will be pleas'd but to do two *Things*. It is not for me to make long Discourses, in Cases so nice, and considering who I am speaking to; but as in general I lay down one Part, so in general I lay down the other.

There are a World of Enemies at Work against the Meeting of this Parliament; they have various Projects on Foot to ruin our Peace; more than ever they had before.

They have gain'd over to their complaining Party, some that never were with them before.

They have a great many Arguments and Advantages on their side, popular and specious, which they never had before.

They have or pretend to have greater Hopes of Success, than ever they had before.

And yet all these things will fall to the Ground, all these Hopes will vanish, and their Attempts be abortive; if the Members in the ensuing Parliament will but do two things, two minute Articles contain'd in but two small, short Words——**AGREE and ATTEND.**

I remember, at the Meeting of this present Parliament in their first Session, the

early Struggle of the Party was very great.—And I would but humbly recommend, to the Reflection of the several Members, two Things,

1. How noble an Appearance was there at the very first Meeting of the House, the like of which I believe, has not been in any Man's Memory! How zealously, how vigilantly and diligently did the Gentlemen come up from the most remote Parts; and so full was the House, that if I remember right, there was not above 4 Members absent, but *what even I could account for*, under the Articles of Death, Sickness, foreign Service, or some inevitable Obstruction.

2. What was the glorious Issue of so early an Appearance? Was it not giving an early Stab to the *Higb-Flying Cause*, which then was rising in Hopes, just as it is now, and which, had a Slackness in appearing, happen'd; would have receiv'd more Life from the first Step, than could have been crush'd again in a great while.

Attendance then is the first Duty; *Agree and Attend*, is the Theme; but I shall have Leisure afterwards to speak to the first, the last is the present Case.

If you have any Concern for the great Work of this Session, perhaps greater than was ever yet before a Parliament, since the Revolution.

If you have any Concern for the great Trust reposed in you by your Country, on the Discharge of which their Prosperity entirely depends.

If you have any Concern for the Success of this terrible and tedious War, something extraordinary in which is now transacting.

If any Concern to cheque early Feuds, crush new forming Parties, keep down the noisie and querulous Rabble of Murmurers, discourage your Enemies, and hearten your Friends.—For GOD's Sake, for your own Sake, for your Countries Sake, **ATTEND.** 'Tis an old Note, I preach'd it last Year; but 'tis so especially necessary, 'tis so watch'd against, the contrary so hoped for, and so depended upon, and the Juncture, I think, is so weighty, that I cannot but repeat it again and again; if you will do your Country any Service, **ATTEND.** Do but be their

there, and be early there, and let the Enemies of *Britain's* Peace do their worst.

Let it be voted a new Parliament, or an old Parliament, be but there, that we may be sure, 'tis a full Parliament, and we shall have nothing to fear.

Bad is their Cause, which depends upon the Absence of honest Men; that have their Hopes built upon their Neighbours Faults, that have their Diligence depending on our Negligence——If there is a full Assembly, they will carry nothing; no Injury can be done to *Britain*, if all her Representatives do but appear——

We are sure, 'tis a free Parliament, let it be but a full Parliament too, and all will be well——One of the best Things, I observ'd in the *Scots* Parliament, which I have had the Honour to see, was, that the Rolls of Parliament were called over every Day, and no Man could be absent without Censure, unless reasonably excus'd: And I dare say, tho' the Gentlemen of *North Britain* come some of them near 500 Miles, and the Roads are very bad, you will find not a Man of them will neglect the Service of their Country, or fail their Attendance, Sickness and Death excepted.

This is one of the first things you will have to learn of your new Brethren; and indeed, Gentlemen, it is a useful Lesson, learn it, I beseech you——However you forget it hereafter, learn it now; for there is more need of it now, than ever was before, or I hope, than there will be again in haste.

I need not repeat to you, what Moment the Affair before you is of; I need not tell you, that it is the first Parliament of *Britain* that ever sat, that you will have the finishing Stroke of the Union to strike, and have the Felicity of three Kingdoms in your Management. Indeed, to tell you what you know as well as I, and better too, I have more Business to do, as well as more Manners, than to spend my own Time and yours at that Rate.

But if I can acquaint you of Plots laid to destroy; if I can inform you of a Mine dug and charg'd, and of Designs to blow you up; if I can let you see the Trains laid, the Machine prepar'd to embarrass all your Proceedings, to divide and infinitely subdivide your Councils; if I can point out

to you your Enemies, and their new Methods by which they hope to ruin the Success of this Parliament, and to embroil the Gentry and Nobility of this united Kingdom among themselves: I cannot but persuade my self, that in this I shall discharge the Duty of an honest Man, and a Duty that every honest Man ought to discharge.

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